

APPENDIX L

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EVALUATION PROCESS BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

The inventory and evaluation process used by BLM to identify and evaluate river segments for potential inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system is guided by the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and BLM planning guidance. Section 5(d)(1) of the Act directs federal agencies to consider potential wild and scenic rivers in the land and water planning processes. To fulfill this requirement, the BLM inventories and evaluates rivers when it develops comprehensive resource management plans for public lands in a specified area. The inventory is conducted during the data gathering stage of RMP development and the study phase (for suitability) is done during the formulation of the Draft and Proposed RMP.

In March 2002, BLM released a report requesting public comment on the inventory efforts conducted for the Dillon RMP (USDI-BLM 2002c). In July 2002, BLM released the final report on Wild and Scenic River eligibility determinations, identifying eight river segments as eligible for further study in the land use plan (USDI-BLM 2002d). Additional information describing the inventory and evaluation process can be found in the reports referenced above.

In August 2002, the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC) convened a subgroup to make recommendations to the BLM on which, if any, of the eligible river segments should be recommended as suitable for designation based on a variety of criteria provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and BLM guidance. As a result of this work, the subgroup recommended that five of the eight river segments should be considered unsuitable for designation, with this same recommendation forwarded to BLM by the full RAC in September 2002. These recommendations were incorporated into the preferred alternative, but other findings are included in other alternatives to satisfy BLM guidance.

No agreements were reached by the subgroup regarding suitability recommendations on the three segments along the Madison River. The full RAC recommended that BLM consider the notes and discussions of the subgroup even though no agreement was reached. The planning team considered the information and discussion generated by the subgroup regarding the Madison River segments to develop the Madison River suitability findings presented in the Draft RMP/EIS document.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SUITABILITY STUDY

The final step in the river assessment process is the determination of suitability. BLM Manual guidance identifies certain factors to be considered when completing the suitability study. The suitability determination is influenced by the unique characteristics and conditions associated with each particular river. Additional factors may be considered as they apply to a specific segment.

The suitability evaluation does not result in actual designation but only a recommendation for those river segments identified as suitable for designation. Congressional legislative action is required for actual designation and final classification of suitable river segments.

The following factors were considered while conducting the study:

- 1) Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the National System.
- 2) The current status of land ownership, minerals (surface and subsurface), use in the area, including the amount of private land involved and associated or incompatible uses. Jurisdictional consideration must be taken into account to the extent that management would be affected.
- 3) The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed or curtailed if the area were included in the National System and the values which could be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not protected as part of the system.
- 4) The federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the National System.
- 5) Federal, state, local, tribal, or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river, including the extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by state and local agencies.
- 6) The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands and interests in lands and of administering the area should it be added to the National System. Section 6 of the WSRA outlines policies and limitations of acquiring lands or interests in land by donation, exchange, consent of owners, easement, transfer, assignment of rights, or condemnation within and outside established river boundaries.
- 7) A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivisions might participate in the preser-

vation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

- 8) The federal agency's ability or other mechanisms (existing or potential) to protect and manage the identified river related values other than WSR designation and the state/local government's ability to manage and protect the ORVs on nonfederal lands. Such mechanisms may include, for example, statewide programs related to population growth management, vegetation management, water quantity or quality, or protection of river-related values such as open space and historic areas.
- 9) An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's ORVs by preventing incompatible development. This evaluation may result in a formal finding that the local zoning fulfills Section 6(c)'s requirements, which in turn preempts the federal government's ability to acquire land through eminent domain if the river is designated.
- 10) Support or opposition to designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or non-designation by federal, state, local and tribal governments and national and local publics should be considered, as well as the state's political delegation.
- 11) Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected. In determining suitability, consideration of any valid existing rights must be afforded under applicable laws (including the WSRA), regulations, and/or policies.
- 12) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives. Designation may help or impede the "goals" of other tribal, federal, state or local agencies. For example, designation of a river may contribute to state or regional protection objectives for fish and wildlife resources. Similarly, adding a river which includes a limited recreation activity or setting to the National System may help meet statewide recreation goals. Designation might, however, limit irrigation and/or flood control measures in a manner inconsistent with regional socioeconomic goals.
- 13) The contribution to river system or basin integrity. This factor reflects the benefits of a "systems" approach, i.e., expanding the designated portion of a river in the National System or developing a legislative proposal for an entire river system (headwaters to mouth) or watershed. Numerous benefits are likely to result from managing an entire river or watershed, including the ability to design a holistic protection strategy in partnership with other agencies and the public.

A subgroup of the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council convened in the summer of 2002 to study the eight river segments in consideration of the suitability criteria. Discussions from this subgroup, as well as, other public comment and review by the planning team form the basis of this suitability assessment.

River Name: Bear Creek

Classified as Scenic, the Bear Creek segment is approximately 2.27 miles in length and lies within the boundary of the Centennial Mountain WSA. Evidence of past logging operations exist within the river corridor on BLM, including old jeep trails and skid trails. The area is currently inaccessible by motorized means due to its location within the WSA and other travel management decisions already in place. Management direction is provided by the Interim Management Policy for lands under wilderness review.

Bear Creek contains a native population of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout. The presence of this native species has been identified as an ORV and is recognized by the BLM as a sensitive species. This species is currently managed by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Uses along the corridor are mainly those associated with big game hunting, horse back riding and packing. The area below the segment is private and used for grazing and irrigated to the extent water levels permit. The segment flow is intermittent and flows beneath the ground in lower reaches. The amount and timing of stream flow is dependent on the climate and fluctuates yearly and seasonally. These uses will continue with or without designation.

Interest in designation or non-designation of this particular segment appears to be low. After leaving the WSA, Bear Creek flows through private lands. The private land owner is opposed to designation. Public comments indicated concern that designation might prevent management measures that could help restore stream health. Much of the stream bed is becoming a monoculture of conifers, reducing the diversity of plant and animal communities present.

Recurring activities such as patrols and monitoring would continue with or without designation. There would be no change in annual costs from current administration because of existing WSA and special management as provided within the wilderness IMP.

River Name: Beaverhead River

The Beaverhead River segment is classified as Recreational, and considered to be one of the most productive brown trout fisheries in the state. It is considered a "Class 1" (Blue Ribbon) trout fishery by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Fishing is the primary recreational opportunity on the segment and is managed by FWP. Designation might have the potential to increase fishing pressure along the already crowded segment.

There are two important historic properties associated with the segment. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail follows the Beaverhead River through the entire segment

and journal entries indicate that the main party of the expedition camped overnight somewhere within the segment in August, 1805. The Ney Ranch, homesteaded in 1882, is located within the segment and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A log house that was constructed at the turn of the century and occupied up until the '70s is still standing as well as the original cabin.

The 3.2 mile Beaverhead River segment flows through 2.95 miles of BLM managed lands, .11 of which is managed on one side only. The remaining portion, .27 miles is located on private land. The surrounding viewshed within BLM managed lands has been withdrawn from mineral entry; however mining operations have occurred within the corridor in the past on private lands and if they were to continue, might have a direct affect on the existing viewshed of the segment. Grazing occurs on both public and private lands in and adjacent to the segment. If the segment was found suitable, grazing opportunities may be modified to protect the ORVs.

Citizen groups voiced concern that increased visitation as a result of designation might place an undue burden on neighboring land owners. Local neighboring private land owners are concerned current drought conditions coupled with designation might affect historic water rights. Neighboring land owners and public officials do not support designation of this particular segment. They are concerned that designation may result in limitations being placed on existing transportation and communication corridors and the effect those limitations could have on the economics of the area.

It is anticipated that costs associated with the administration of this segment would be the sole responsibility of the BLM.

The historic values associated with the segment are already protected under other designations. The Ney homestead is listed on the National Register of Historic places. In addition, the National Historic Trails Act along with historic preservation laws would provide some protection for the encampment and associated Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. All BLM managed lands within the viewshed of the segment are currently withdrawn from mineral entry.

River Name: Big Hole (Divide to Melrose)

This segment of the Big Hole River provides recreational fishing opportunities for local, regional and out of state users. The Big Hole River has the only population of fluvial (river dwelling) arctic grayling in the lower 48 states. The fluvial (river dwelling) arctic grayling population located in the river segments is managed by FWP. Current management practices including those on BLM are providing the habitat necessary to support the population. Other recreation

activities that occur in the area include wildlife viewing, floating, photography and sightseeing. Some mining has and continues to occur on private lands adjacent to some of the more scenic portions of the segment. Numerous water diversions occur along the segment as necessary for irrigation purposes.

Total segment length is 13.4 miles. BLM segment is 5.27 miles long with .8 miles managed by the BLM on one side only. The segment is tentatively classified as Recreational. Local watershed groups in cooperation with Montana FWP, federal agencies and private land owners have coordinated their efforts to promote proper management practices in areas adjacent to the segment.

Public comment showed little support for designation. Reasons included: small amount of land managed by BLM within the segment and the inability to manage due to mixed ownership, effects of designation on transportation and utility corridor, insensitive development on adjacent private lands, potential impacts to grazing permittees and conflicts due to increased use. Neighboring landowners are opposed to designation. While there may be increased use with designation, none of the historical or existing rights would be affected.

There is currently a collaborative management effort between the Big Hole Watershed Group, Big Hole Water Users, FWP, and private land owners to protect and enhance the river area and surrounding lands. Cooperation with FWPs Statewide River Recreation Advisory Council may help with management direction in regard to outfitted use and allocation if designated. Recreation activities and other uses associated with the segment can be managed through these collaborative efforts.

The fluvial (river dwelling) arctic grayling population located in the river segment is managed by FWP. Current BLM management practices are providing the habitat necessary to support the population.

River Name: Big Hole (Melrose to Notch Bottom)

The Melrose to Notch Bottom segment of the Big Hole River is tentatively classified as Recreational. The segment is 20.1 miles in length and made up of mostly private land. These large blocks of private land within the segment may limit manageability. BLM managed lands make up 4.27 miles of the segment length. This segment tends to receive less floating activity than the Divide to Melrose segment but still provides exceptional recreation opportunities for fishing. Although populations decrease in lower reaches, the presence of the fluvial (river dwelling) arctic grayling in this segment meets the criteria as outstandingly remarkable.

A prominent vantage point on the Hogback, an unusual geological feature within the river corridor, is described and documented in the Lewis and Clark Journals. This vantage point, known as Lewis's Lookout, marks the furthest point traveled up the Big Hole River in 1805 as the expedition passed through Beaverhead County. Few physical features remain of the expedition today and this event and prominent land form is regionally and nationally significant.

Uses within the river area are primarily fishing and floating and would continue with a finding of suitable. Private lands are used for agricultural purposes, hay production and grazing. Numerous water diversions occur along segment as necessary for irrigation purposes. While recreational use may increase with designation, agricultural activities should not be affected.

Because of the high amount of agricultural use on private lands and the limited scattered BLM lands along the corridor, local support for a finding of suitable is very low. It is anticipated that costs associated with the administration of this segment would be the sole responsibility of the BLM.

Lewis's Lookout is recognized as part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and is afforded the same protection as other prominent features along the trail. The fluvial (river dwelling) arctic grayling population located in the river segment is managed by FWP. Current BLM management practices are providing the habitat necessary to support the population.

River Name: Big Sheep Creek

The Big Sheep segment is located along a section of the Big Sheep Creek/Medicine Lodge Back Country Byway. The byway was designated in 1990. Fishing, hiking, camping, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing were all recognized as outstanding attributes at that time. During the WSR eligibility study, these same values in addition to scenic, cultural and ecological values were noted as outstandingly remarkable. The scenic values are a result of a unique series of three canyons with outstanding views and vistas.

There are numerous prehistoric archaeological sites located along Big Sheep Creek that are considered significant for their scientific values. The diverse ecological setting is uncommon and does not occur on other BLM lands in the region.

Classified as recreational, the Big Sheep Creek segment is 15.47 miles long; 8.62 miles cross BLM managed lands, 6.4 miles cross private land, and .45 miles cross state lands. The potential for locatable minerals is very low.

The Rural Electric Cooperative expressed concerns in regard to the maintenance and future need for additional util-

ity lines within the segment boundaries and whether designation would limit the types of improvements or upgrades that could occur. The county road is located in close proximity of the stream along most of the segment and County officials are worried that designation might limit the opportunity to perform necessary road maintenance.

Upper reaches of the segment flow are intermittent and flow beneath the ground in some sections. The amount and timing of stream flow is dependant on tributaries and climate and fluctuates yearly and seasonally.

Local agricultural producers expressed the following concerns regarding finding the segment suitable: impairment to water quality, continued opportunity for grazing, weed control, and loss of private water rights. Most activities would continue even with designation, however, residents do not support a finding of suitable. Comments suggested that designation could destroy the values that were found to be outstanding.

It is anticipated that costs associated with the administration of this segment would be the sole responsibility of the BLM.

The area's scenic quality could be protected by managing the area as a Visual Resource Management Class II. This classification would not limit development but would protect the visual qualities through project design mitigation. The Big Sheep Creek Wickiup is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and other cultural values located along the segment could be protected under historic preservation law. The Sheep Creek Habitat Management Plan and other existing management direction provides protection for values along this segment.

River Name: Madison River (Cliff Lake to Varney Bridge)

This Madison River segment is classified as recreational and is 33.57 miles long. BLM segment is 13.33 miles long with 2.16 miles managed by the BLM on one side only.

The segment is nationally and internationally known as a blue ribbon trout fishery and provides excellent opportunities for recreational fishing. Numerous species of wildlife inhabit the river setting to provide outstanding recreational wildlife viewing that is not common along other rivers in the region. The trumpeter swan is a species of special concern and generates high national interest. BLM lands along the river corridor provide a critical link for the swan's migration by providing regional winter habitat. The swan and its relationship with the river corridor is considered an outstandingly remarkable wildlife value.

The Madison River Valley is widely known for its panoramic views of distant mountain peaks and broad valley vistas. Unique features that record past geologic events and geomorphologic processes are expressed in well developed fluvial terrace sequences and exceptionally well formed alluvial fans. An area known as “the Palisades” located on the BLM lands along the west bank of the river study area contains towering cliffs that comprise a unique and extremely visual feature. These unique geological and scenic features are not common along other rivers in the region.

A well documented confrontation between the Blackfeet and early trappers took place at the mouth of Ruby Creek within the river segment. The placement of this historic event on the river corridor and the involvement of prominent figures associated with western expansion and settlement make this value outstandingly remarkable.

Public access along the river way is limited to specific points on BLM and Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) lands. The mid-section of the segment includes a large block of BLM managed land. Ownership is scattered on both ends of the segment but recreation opportunities are very popular even with the limited access. Agricultural activities are common on private lands in the northern portion of the segment. All associated uses within the corridor would continue on private lands even with designation.

The Comprehensive Management Plan developed by Madison County specifies the need to preserve and protect the entire corridor from Quake Lake north to the county line from encroachment as a result of development. The plan specifies the following values should be protected: scenic, fish and wildlife, recreation, agricultural, historic and archaeologic, and floodplain sites. Conservation easements and collaboration with other stake holders, watershed groups etc. could increase opportunities for local support for protection of values on the segment. However, it is anticipated that costs associated with the administration of this segment would be the sole responsibility of the BLM.

A Class II VRM classification would protect the scenic and geologic values along the segment. This classification would not limit development but would provide protection through project design mitigation. Historic values could be interpreted and protected through current historic preservation law.

Other methods of managing to protect values would be withdrawing the corridor from all mineral entry and proposing a No Surface Occupancy for Oil and Gas. The agency might also assist in placement of conservation easements on adjacent private lands.

Designation might result in the area being highlighted as part of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) and provide additional budget opportunities but also

more use. Use levels for recreational fishing are very high already. Designation would probably enhance recognition of the area as well as property values.

During the study process there did not appear to be any strong opposition for or against designation. Most comments related to the current management as being adequate to manage those values that made the segment eligible. Other comments suggested that of all the rivers reviewed, the Madison was the most appropriate for consideration under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

River Name: Madison River (Powerhouse to N. Wilderness Boundary)

This segment of the Madison River is classified as Scenic and is wholly within the Lee Metcalf Wilderness boundaries designated in 1983. Management direction is provided by Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness Management Plan. (1985). The segment is 7.67 miles in length. Both scenic and recreational values have been identified as outstandingly remarkable.

This portion of the river supports a blue ribbon trout fishery and is nationally known for the white water boating opportunities. A diverse array of wildlife provides excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. Outfitters offer trips for fishing and floating. The area is accessible only by foot, horseback, or water craft. Outstanding scenery is found throughout and unique geologic features are showcased on steep canyon walls. The seasonally colored canyon offers a sense of solitude that's rare today in most recreational settings.

Costs associated with the administration of this segment would be the sole responsibility of the BLM. Types of recreational activities would not change; however, cost of maintenance may increase due to an increase in use. The area has already met the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) threshold but visitation continues to grow. Designation would draw attention to the river resource and may deter efforts to protect wilderness values. However, of all segments in the study, this segment had the most support for a finding of suitable.

The most common concern expressed regarding this segment was the need to preserve the character of the corridor and that the current weed infestation was the largest threat. Weed infestation is apparent throughout the river corridor. Weeds are threatening scenic values, adjacent land and watersheds, and ecological functions within the river area.

Efforts were initiated in 2001 to control the spread of noxious weeds already present in the wilderness area and to prevent any new infestations from becoming established. Because of the size, density and location of the current infestations, it was determined that eradication was no longer

an option but that a long term plan of control and containment would be more practical and cost effective. Community and special interest groups have been very active in support of this project. A weed management plan for the Bear Trap Wilderness is currently in the draft stage and should be completed in 2003.

The outstanding scenic values are protected by a VRM Class I. The objective for management Class I is to preserve the existing character of the landscape.

River Name: Madison River (N. Wilderness Boundary to Grey Cliff)

Classified as Recreational, this Madison River segment is 11.06 miles in length; 5.87 miles of the segment flows through BLM managed lands. The calm, relatively warm waters created by the Ennis Dam and the segment location make it a popular spot for recreational floating. Residents of local small communities and larger communities such as Bozeman can recreate in the river area without traveling great distances. The river area is frequented by local outfitters and guides and is also fished by private individuals. As a trout fishery the area is regionally and nationally, if not internationally noted as outstanding.

The area of the segment from the north wilderness boundary to Blacks Ford contains a significant prehistoric archaeological district. The prehistoric properties range in age from 500 to 10,000 years old. The area exhibits the highest average density of prehistoric sites in the Field Office area and also includes the site with the largest number of individual stone circles in southwest Montana. The river area was an important winter habitation location and transportation route for Native Americans and other early travelers. The Bozeman Trail follows portions the river corridor extending from Ft. Laramie to Virginia City and the gold fields of southwest Montana. The Scanlon Toll Bridge was authorized for construction in the 1866 Territorial Legislature. Remnants of the bridge and associated buildings are outstandingly remarkable on a regional scale.

The area currently receives high levels of recreational use and supports a considerable amount of commercial outfitted use. Several active mining claims are located along the segment. The segment is highly accessible along most of the corridor. National notoriety through a Wild and Scenic River designation could potentially increase use along the segment. Designation could affect how these current uses would be managed. Administration would be the sole responsibility of the BLM Dillon Field Office. The segment is currently managed under the Lower Madison Recreation Plan (January 2003). The river area contains VRM Classes II, III, and IV.

Designation might result in the area being highlighted as part of NLCS and provide additional budget opportunities but also more use. Use levels for recreational fishing are very high already. Designation would probably enhance recognition of the area as well as property values.

Other methods of managing to protect values would be withdrawing the corridor from all mineral entry and proposing a No Surface Occupancy for Oil and Gas. All lands along the corridor could be placed in a retention zone or the agency could assist in placing conservation easements on adjacent private lands. Changing all VRM classes to II would help in preserving all values along the segment. This classification would not limit development but would provide protection through project design mitigation. Historic values could be protected through current historic preservation law. Historic and cultural properties could be better protected by providing additional educational and interpretive materials for the public.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Wild and scenic rivers shall be managed with plans prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act, other applicable laws, and the following general management principles. Management plans will state: General principles for any land acquisition which may be necessary; the kinds and amounts of public use which the river area can sustain without impact to the values for which it was designated; and specific management measures which will be used to implement the management objectives for each of the various river segments and protect esthetic, scenic, historic, archaeologic and scientific features.

If the classification or classifications determined in the management plan differ from those stated in the study report, the management plan will describe the changes in the existing condition of the river area or other considerations which required the change in classification.

General Management Principles

Section 10(a) states,

Each component of the nations wild and scenic rivers systems shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its esthetic, scenic, historic, archaeologic and scientific features. Management plans for any such component may establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development on the special attributes of the area.

This section is interpreted as stating a non-degradation and enhancement policy for all designated river areas, regardless of classification. Each component will be managed to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated, while providing for public recreation and resource uses which do not adversely impact or degrade those values. Specific management strategies will vary according to classification but will always be designed to protect and enhance the values of the river area. Land uses and developments on private lands within the river area which were in existence when the river was designated may be permitted to continue. New land uses must be evaluated for their compatibility with the purposes of the Act.

The management principles which follow stem from section 10(a). Managing principles will be implemented to the fullest extent possible under their general statutory authorities and existing Federal, State and local laws. Because of these limitations, however, implementation of the principles may differ among and within components of the system depending on whether the land areas involved are federally, State, locally or privately owned.

Carrying Capacity: Studies will be made during preparation of the management plan and periodically thereafter to determine the quantity and mixture of recreation and other public use which can be permitted without adverse impact on the resource values of the river area. Management of the river area can then be planned accordingly.

Public Use and Access: Public use will be regulated and distributed where necessary to protect and enhance (by allowing natural recovery where resources have been damaged) the resource values of the river area. Public use may be controlled by limiting access to the river, by issuing permits, or by other means available to the managing agency through its general statutory authorities.

Basic Facilities: The managing agency may provide basic facilities to absorb user impacts on the resource. Wild river areas will contain only the basic minimum facilities in keeping with the “essentially primitive” nature of the area. If facilities such as toilets and refuse containers are necessary, they will generally be located at access points or at a sufficient distance from the river bank to minimize their intrusive impact. In scenic and recreational river areas, simple comfort and convenience facilities such as toilets, shelters, fireplaces, picnic tables and refuse containers are appropriate. These, when placed within the river area, will be judiciously located to protect the values of the popular areas from the impacts of public use.

Major Facilities: Major public use facilities such as developed campgrounds, major visitor centers and administrative headquarters will, where feasible, be located outside the river area. If such facilities are necessary to provide for

public use and/or to protect the river resource, and location outside the river area is infeasible, such facilities may be located within the river area provided they do not have an adverse effect on the values for which the river area was designated.

Motorized Travel: Motorized travel on land or water is generally permitted in wild, scenic and recreational river areas, but will be restricted or prohibited where necessary to protect the values for which the river area was designated.

Agricultural and Forestry Practices: Agricultural and forestry practices should be similar in nature and intensity to those present in the area at the time of designation. Generally, uses more intensive than grazing and hay production are incompatible with river classification. Row crop production and timber harvest may be practiced in recreational and scenic river areas. Recreational river areas may contain an even larger range of agricultural and forestry uses. Timber harvest in any river area will be conducted so as to avoid adverse impacts on the river area values.

Other Resource Management Practices: Resource management practices will be limited to those which are necessary for protection, conservation, rehabilitation or enhancement of the river area resources. Such features as trail bridges, fences, water bars and drainage ditches, flow measurement devices and other minor structures or management practices are permitted when compatible with the classification of the river area and provided that the area remains natural in appearance and the practices or structures harmonize with the surrounding environment.

Water Quality: Consistent with the Clean Water Act, water quality in wild, scenic and recreational river areas will be maintained or, where necessary, improved to levels which meet Federal criteria or federally approved State standards for aesthetics and fish and wildlife propagation. River managers will work with local authorities to abate activities with the river area which are degrading or would degrade existing water quality.

Additional management principles stem from other sections of the Act as follows:

- Land Acquisition: Section 6
- Water Resource Development: Section 7
- Mining: Section 9
- Management of Adjacent Federal Lands: Section 12(a)
- Hunting and Fishing: Section 13(a)
- Water Rights: Section 13(b)-(f)
- Rights-of-Way: Section 13(a)

The following policies are consistent with and supplement the management principles stated in the Act:

Land Use Controls: Existing patterns of land use and ownership should be maintained, provided they remain consistent with the purposes of the Act. Where land use controls are necessary to protect river area values, the managing agency will utilize a full range of land-use control measures including zoning, easements and fee acquisition.

Rights-of Way: In the absence of reasonable alternative routes, new public utility rights-of-way on Federal lands affecting a Wild and Scenic River area or study area will be permitted. Where new rights-of-ways are unavoidable, lo-

cations and construction techniques will be selected to minimize adverse effects on scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife and other values of the river area.

Other legislation applicable to the various managing agencies may also apply to wild and scenic river areas. Where conflicts exist between the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and acts applicable within the system, the more restrictive provisions providing for protection of the river values shall apply.